

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092730
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 NEA-10 INR-07 SS-15 SP-02
/054 R

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APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:WSHINN, JR.
EA/RA:WGIM
NEA/INS:DKUX
EUR/RPM:JIMARESCA

-----252238Z 113482 /70

P 252006Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, XB

SUBJECT: NATO EXPERTS REPORT ON SITUATION IN EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN ASIA

REF: USNATO 2131

IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, BELOW ARE REQUESTED TALKING POINTS
FOR MISSION'S USE DURING APRIL 27 NAC REVIEW OF SUBJECT
REPORT AS WELL AS REVISION OF DRAFT TALKING POINT ON CHINA
MISSION AUTHORIZED TO USE PROPOSED TALKING POINT
REGARDING INDIA CONTAINED REFTEL.

U.S. GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA:

--IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 9, PRESIDENT CARTER
CONFIRMED HIS DECISION TO WITHDRAW U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM
KOREA. THESE TROOPS, NUMBERING 37,000, CONSIST PRIMARILY
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PAGE 02 STATE 092730

OF A DIVISION AND SUPPORT TROOPS.

--THE WITHDRAWAL WILL BE GRADUAL OVER A FOUR TO FIVE YEAR
PERIOD. WE ARE NOW STUDYING THE MANNER AND TIMING OF
THE WITHDRAWALS, AND WILL CONSULT FULLY WITH THE ROKG
AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH JAPAN WHEN THIS REVIEW IS COMPLETED.
US AIR FORCES WILL REMAIN IN THE ROK.

--THE WITHDRAWALS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN A MANNER THAT WILL NOT CAUSE INSTABILITY ON THE PENINSULA. WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN ROK FORCES WITH THE GOAL OF MAKING THEM CAPABLE OF RESISTING NORTHERN AGGRESSION WITH OUR LOGISTIC, NAVAL AND AIR SUPPORT BY THE COMPLETION OF OUR WITHDRAWAL.

--WE, OF COURSE, WILL MAINTAIN OUR COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF THE ROK AND TO STABILITY IN NORTHEAST ASIA.

U.S.-VIETNAMESE TALKS IN PARIS:

--U.S.-SRV TALKS ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BEGIN MAY 3 IN PARIS. THE US WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS RICHARD HOLBROOKE. THE TALKS FOLLOW THE RECENT SUCCESSFUL WOODCOCK COMMISSION VISIT TO HANOI, WHICH HELPED ESTABLISH A NEW CLIMATE FOR IMPROVING US-SRV RELATIONS. RESULTS OF THE TALKS WILL DEMONSTRATE WHETHER THIS CLIMATE CAN BE SUSTAINED. THE US INTENDS TO BE FORTHCOMING IN ITS PROPOSALS AND HOPES FOR A SIMILAR ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF HANOI.

CHINA:

--WE AGREE WITH THE POINT IN PARA 10 THAT ANTI-SOVIETISM IS STILL THE CORNERSTONE OF CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY. IN THIS REGARD, SINCE LAST FALL THE CHINESE MEDIA HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 092730

TAKEN A MORE UPBEAT VIEW OF WESTERN RESOLVE, POINTING TO SIGNS OF GROWING WESTERN SUSPICION OF THE SOVIET UNION. NEVERTHELESS, HOPING TO PROMPT STRONGER ACTION TO COUNTER SOVIET INTERESTS, PEKING OFFICIALS RECENTLY HAVE AGAIN BEEN POINTEDLY REMINDING WESTERN VISITORS THAT NO GOOD CAN COME FROM EAST-WEST DETENTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE092730
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TMSAVAGE; EA/K:PMAYHEW; INR/REA:HOROWITZ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770144-0122
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770422/aaaaasog.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4d28969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2702608
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO EXPERTS REPORT ON SITUATION IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN ASIA
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, XB, XT, US, NATO, NAC
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4d28969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009